



STATE OF WISCONSIN \

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
Wisconsin Emergency Management

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Housing assistance available for hurricane evacuees

Evacuees from the hurricane ravaged gulf coast temporarily living in Wisconsin with family and friends may be eligible for transitional housing assistance through a new program funded under federal disaster relief efforts.

The assistance is a coordinated effort between Wisconsin Emergency Management, the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Economic Development (HUD). The program is designed to ensure that evacuees are able to move into their own temporary housing units.

WHEDA will manage the statewide effort except in the City of Milwaukee, where the local housing authority will administer the program directly. As of October 27, FEMA reported it has registered more than 1,990 hurricane evacuee households living in Wisconsin.

Individuals or families seeking housing assistance under the new program should contact their local public housing authority (PHA) office located throughout the state. PHA staff will work with the displaced families to search for appropriate housing, assist with landlord leases, coordinate utility services and provide necessary household items.

Information on location of PHA offices is available at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/pha/contacts/states/wi.cfm>, or by calling Public Housing staff in the Milwaukee HUD office at (414) 297-3214.

In addition, all hurricane evacuees should register with FEMA. Evacuees may be eligible for a variety of grants and programs. **To register, contact FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or for the hearing/speech impaired at TTY: 1-800-462-7585. Registration is also available online on the FEMA website at www.fema.gov

The state's largest concentration of evacuees is in southeastern Wisconsin. About 200 evacuees are staying at the Tommy Thompson Youth Center on the State Fair Grounds in West Allis. Other areas with numerous evacuees include Dane County, the Fox Valley, and the counties of Eau Claire, Chippewa, LaCrosse, Sheboygan, Door and Manitowoc. According to FEMA, nearly every county in the state has at least one evacuated household. Most evacuees are staying with friends and relatives.

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